Patent Claims

What is Claimed is:

1.   A method of monitoring for availability of a system function in a computer system, according to which

- a database of the computer system stores, for a system function monitored for availability, respective information which describes the conditions under which the availability of a system function is to be assessed as existing or no longer existing,

- the aforementioned information is used, when a change in the state of a component of the computer system has taken place or is intended, to assess whether this results or would result in a change in terms of the availability of the aforementioned system function.

2.   A method of monitoring for availability of a system function in a computer system, according to which

- a system function for monitoring for availability is prescribed by marking in a database of the system the component mappers for the components which contribute to the availability of the aforementioned system function,

- the component mappers marked as such are used, when a change in the state of a component has taken place or is intended, to assess whether this results or would result in a change in the availability of the aforementioned system function.

3.   A method of monitoring for availability of a system function in a computer system, according to which

- the respective current (functional) state of a (system) component is recorded for said (system) component in the database,

-       in addition, the database records, for each system
        component, whether said component contributes to
        the availability of a system function monitored
5   for availability and, if so, for which system
        function or system functions,

-        when a change in the state of a component of the
         system has taken place or is intended, the data
         stored in the database for the other system
         components are used to assess whether the

5   availability of a system function monitored for
         availability changes or would change as a result
         of the aforementioned change.

4.   A method of monitoring for availability of a
system function in a computer system, according to

10   which

-        a stipulation regarding which system function is
         monitored for availability is used to mark, among
         the components of the system which are mapped in
         the database, those components which are necessary

15   for the availability of the system function,

-        in addition, the respective state of the
         components of the system which are mapped in the
         database is marked for said components,

-        when a change in the state of a component has

20   taken place or is intended, an assessment is made
         of whether this results or would result in a
         change in the availability of the aforementioned
         system function.

5.   The method as claimed in one of claims 2 to 4,

25   characterized in that
the database stores, for each system function regarded
as being relevant to availability, information which
describes the conditions under which the availability
of a system function is to be assessed as existing or

30   no longer existing.

6.   An availability monitoring component in a computer system, which, when a change in the state of a component of the system has taken place or is intended, uses information stored in the database to assess

5   whether this changes or would change the availability of a system function, where, for this purpose, the database indicates for each data map for a component whether the mapped component contributes to the availability of a system function, and, if so, to which

10 system function or system functions.

7.   The availability monitoring component as claimed in claim 6,
characterized in that
the availability monitoring component additionally

15 makes the aforementioned assessment on the basis of particular conditions which are stored in the database for each system function regarded as being relevant to availability.

8.   A computer system, having

20 -   a stipulation means which can stipulate for the system which system function is to be monitored for availability,
-    a component map which, for a component, records in the database whether said component is at all

25   necessary for a system function monitored for availability and for which system function it is necessary, and which also records for the component the respective (functional) state thereof,

30 -   an assessment means which uses the aforementioned records made in a component map to assess whether a change in the state of a component which has taken place or is intended has resulted or would result in a change in the availability of the

35   aforementioned system function.